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# Food & Nutrition

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## FNS works on implementing P.L. 95-166

The Food and Nutrition Service is currently working on regulations to implement the new child nutrition legislation signed into law by President Carter on November 10. The legislation, Public Law 95-166, makes significant changes in the child nutrition programs. Major provisions strengthen the administration of summer food service; provide for a new program of nutrition education and training; give USDA authority to regulate the sale of competitive foods in school cafeterias at mealtime; and increase aid to especially needy schools taking part in the breakfast program. The law also restructures the Special Milk Pro-

gram to reduce waste, and increases financial and commodity assistance to schools and institutions taking part in the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Child Care Food Programs. FNS has taken steps to implement several of these changes:

- In the School Breakfast Program, USDA increased the maximum reimbursement rates for "especially needy" schools. The new law calls for especially needy schools to be reimbursed at a special rate, which will be adjusted

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## WIC project now underway

Thirteen States will be participating in a pilot project to help migrant farmworker families utilize the WIC program. The migrant pilot project will test a solution to one of the most difficult problems for migrants: how to continue getting WIC benefits as they move from place to place. Already underway, the project will operate at least through September 1978.

The pilot project will also test a new modular nutrition education curriculum designed especially for migrant WIC participants. The modular lessons will be in Spanish and English, and they will be concise, easy to understand, and simple enough for auxiliary staff to use if a nutritionist is not available. The modules will be numbered in sequence, and each time a participant completes a lesson, that will be noted on her transferable certification card. The participant will then receive

the next lesson in sequence at the next WIC clinic she visits.

Under the pilot project, participants will be given cards with their names and identification numbers when they first apply for WIC. The cards will be valid for 6 months and will enable migrant farmworkers to apply for WIC at new clinics without having to be certified all over again, as they now are under the regular program.

Each participating local clinic will keep a participation log. The data from the logs will enable FNS to develop a profile of WIC migrant participants: the services they receive, where there are served, and where there are lapses in service as they move from one locale to another.

The pilot project will operate in a core of mid-continent States

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which form one of the three main migrant streams in the United States. Twelve States will receive a total of \$2.5 million in USDA funds for the project: Texas, ("homebase" for most mid-continent migrants), Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Missouri is also participating in the project but is not requesting USDA funds. States should have received all of their funds by February 28, 1978.

## **FNS aids in disaster relief effort**

FNS provided emergency food assistance to aid the thousands of people affected by the disastrous blizzards which struck the Midwest and New England in January and February.

Working with the American Red Cross and the U.S. Army, FNS assisted in the airlift of 60,000 pounds of food to almost 17,000 people in the Cincinnati area who were stranded in their homes by the storm. The blizzard took several lives as it swept through the Midwest.

When another devastating blizzard hit New England only 2 weeks later, FNS used supplies from the school food programs to provide meals for the thousands of people who had been forced from their homes to emergency shelters. While it is still too early for accurate figures, latest reports show that the emergency shelters served at least 3,000 meals a day to people in Revere, Massachusetts, and 2,000 meals a day to people in Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

FNS approved emergency food stamps for people in eight Massachusetts counties and all of Rhode Island. The stamps were approved for 2 weeks to tide over the many families who had been unable to work because of the storm.

## **Food stamp allotments increase**

Food stamp allotments increased on January 1, reflecting a February to August rise in food costs for

low-income families. In the continental 48 States and the District of Columbia, monthly stamp allotments increased by at least \$2 for all households, except for one-person households. The allotment for a family of four is now \$174; it had been \$170.

The Food Stamp Act requires USDA to adjust stamp allotments twice a year, in line with food price changes as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These price changes are reflected in the cost of USDA's Thrifty Food Plan. Allotment adjustments take effect January 1 and July 1. The table on page 3 lists food stamp allotments and purchase requirements for the 48 States and District of Columbia. The table appeared in the November 8 Federal Register, along with the tables for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam.

Under food stamp regulations now in effect, monthly net income eligibility standards are tied to the size of food stamp allotments in most cases. This means that when allotments increase, net income cut-offs also increase for most households. In accordance with the January 1 increase in allotments, the monthly net income limits increased for all households with three or more persons. The limit for a family of four went from \$567 to \$580.

The income limits for one- and two-person households did not change. They remain at USDA poverty guideline levels--\$262 and \$344 respectively. Current regulations require USDA to use either allotment-based calculations, or the poverty guidelines, whichever are higher, in setting income eligibility limits.

New food stamp legislation changes the procedures for setting income limits. The new legislation is not yet in effect. USDA is now deve-

loping proposed regulations to implement the new law. The table below lists new income limits, effective January 1, for the 48 States and the District of Columbia:

One-person households	.....\$ 262
Two-person households	.....\$ 344
Three-person households	.....\$ 460
Four-person households	.....\$ 580
Five-person households	.....\$ 687
Six-person households	.....\$ 827
Seven-person households	.....\$ 913
Eight-person households	.....\$1047
For each additional household member over eight, add	.....\$ 133

## **Higher utility rates may lower food stamp prices**

This winter, USDA issued a new rule to lessen hardships suffered by food stamp participants with high utility costs. Under the new rule, participants can have their food stamp purchase prices reduced if they can show a \$25 or more increase in their winter heating or utility bills.

The new rules, effective November 30, 1977, require State welfare agencies to notify households that recent utility bills can be used when computing the food stamp purchase price. The rules direct States to certify food stamp applicants within 30 days if applicants can document an increase of more than \$25 in their utility bills. To document the increase, households may use their most recent utility bills, but may also use other available information, such as notices of utility rate increases.

## **New recertification rules now in effect**

As a result of new food stamp regulations, people who use food stamps will now be getting written notices telling them when their eligibility is due to end. The notices will tell them the specific date by which they must reapply for the program in order to avoid an interruption in food stamp benefits.

# **FOOD STAMP ALLOTMENTS AND PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS (Effective January 1, 1978)**

For a Household of--								
	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons	7 Persons	8 Persons
The Monthly Coupon Allotment is--								
Monthly Net Income	\$52	\$96	\$138	\$174	\$206	\$248	\$274	\$314
And the Monthly Purchase Requirement is--								
0 - 19.99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20 - 29.99	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 - 39.99	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
40 - 49.99	6	7	7	7	8	8	8	8
50 - 59.99	8	10	10	10	11	11	12	12
60 - 69.99	10	12	13	13	14	14	15	16
70 - 79.99	12	15	16	16	17	17	18	19
80 - 89.99	14	18	19	19	20	21	21	22
90 - 99.99	16	21	21	22	23	24	25	26
100 - 100.99	18	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
110 - 119.99	21	26	27	28	29	31	32	33
120 - 129.99	24	29	30	31	33	34	35	36
130 - 139.99	27	32	33	34	36	37	38	39
140 - 149.99	30	35	36	37	39	40	41	42
150 - 169.99	33	38	40	41	42	43	44	45
170 - 189.99	39	44	46	47	48	49	50	51
190 - 209.99	40	50	52	53	54	55	56	57
210 - 229.99	42	56	58	59	60	61	62	63
230 - 249.99	42	62	64	65	66	67	68	69
250 - 269.99	42	68	70	71	72	73	74	75
270 - 289.99		74	76	77	78	79	80	81
290 - 309.99		76	82	83	84	85	86	87
310 - 329.99		76	88	89	90	91	92	93
330 - 359.99		76	94	95	96	97	98	99
360 - 389.99			103	104	105	106	107	108
390 - 419.99			112	113	114	115	116	117
420 - 449.99			120	122	123	124	125	126
450 - 479.99			120	131	132	133	134	135
480 - 509.99				140	141	142	143	144
510 - 539.99				149	150	151	152	153
540 - 569.99				150	159	160	161	162
570 - 599.99				150	168	169	170	171
600 - 629.99					177	178	179	180
630 - 659.99					178	187	188	189
660 - 689.99					178	196	197	198
690 - 719.99						205	206	207
720 - 749.99						214	215	216
750 - 779.99						216	224	225
780 - 809.99						216	233	234
810 - 839.99						216	238	243
840 - 869.99							238	252
870 - 899.99							238	261
900 - 929.99							238	270
930 - 959.99								274
960 - 989.99								274
990 - 1019.99								274
1020 - 1049.99								274

For each additional household member over eight, add \$40 to the monthly stamp allotment for an eight-person household.



USDA issued the new regulations in December to resolve the nationwide class action lawsuit, *Basel vs. Butz*, which challenged the former recertification procedures. Previously, food stamp agencies notified participants of their certification expiration dates during the application process. The agencies provided no further notice. The new rules make the recertification process fairer by requiring State and local agencies to take more responsibility for keeping food stamp users informed about their eligibility status.

## Unspent WIC funds reallocated to 42 States

More States than ever before are participating in the fifth reallocation of unspent funds for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

Begun in January, the fifth reallocation will distribute approximately \$23 million to 42 States. Under USDA's reallocation plan, each State agency has an assigned maximum monthly expenditure level. If the State does not spend WIC funds at that level, the unspent funds are recovered and distributed to States with high expenditure levels. To share in the fifth reallocation, States had to spend over 90 percent of WIC money available for the period July through November 1977.

The purpose of the reallocation plan is to encourage States to expand their WIC caseloads gradually by spending more of the money USDA makes available. Latest estimates of WIC participation show a 30 percent increase since the first reallocation last February. The program now serves approximately 1,026,000 women and children.

The last reallocation in the WIC reallocation series is scheduled

for April. States spending 95 percent or more of funds available for February 1978 will participate in the last reallocation.

## WIC comments reviewed

Is the sugar content too high in cereals provided through the Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children? Early last fall, USDA asked the public to respond to this question and to comment on two other areas of concern in the WIC program: how the Department can improve delivery of WIC services in rural areas; and whether or not low income should be the sole criteria for program eligibility. Currently applicants must have low income and be medically determined to be "at nutritional risk."

In reviewing the 300 comments received, USDA found that most people agreed on the first two issues. Most comments favored restricting the sugar content in cereal due to its possible role in the development of tooth decay, obesity and other health problems. Also most comments suggested that transportation to clinics be provided to WIC participants living in rural areas.

In regard to program eligibility, however, comments were divided. Some people favored admitting only medically certified "nutritional risk" applicants. Others argued that low income by itself is an accurate indicator of nutritional need. A number of comments pointed out that the program's current requirements have resulted in some low income infants and children being declared ineligible for the program.

Assistant Secretary Foreman said these comments will be of great assistance to USDA in finalizing amendments to WIC regulations.

## Advisory council meets

The Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant, and Fetal Nutrition met February 15-16 in Memphis, Tennessee. Members reviewed the latest

developments in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), including legislative proposals for the program and the current demonstration project to improve WIC service to migrant families. The Council also reviewed two WIC program studies. One profiles participants and the other analyzes program administration costs.

## Cashout option allows more flexibility

New food distribution regulations give States more flexibility in providing food assistance to federally funded nutrition projects for the elderly. States may now choose to receive cash payments for all, or any portion of, the donated foods they would otherwise receive from USDA. This means State agencies can provide some local projects with cash, others with donated foods.

Under the new rules, States must determine each year whether and how they will use the cashout option. The decision is binding until the end of that fiscal year. Published in the Federal Register November 22, the regulations implement amendments to Title VII of the Older American's Act of 1965.

In accordance with the Older American's Act, USDA adjusts the level of commodity assistance each year to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for food away from home. Currently the reimbursement rate is 29.25 cents per month.

## Hearings provide valuable testimony

Hundreds of people testified at the public hearings USDA held this fall to get public thinking on ways to improve the food stamp and child nutrition programs. New legislation makes significant changes in these programs, and USDA wanted to get the benefit of public comments before writing the regulations which will implement these changes.



Held during October, the food stamp hearings focused on changes resulting from the Food Stamp Act of 1977, signed by President Carter on September 29. Each of the seven FNS regions organized an urban hearing as well as one or more rural hearings. A special hearing in Fresno, California, focused on the problems of migrants. The hearings generally lasted one day, with some running another half day. Most of the testimony was at the urban hearings, which were held in Boston, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Chicago, Baltimore, Dallas, and Denver. More than 500 people testified at these hearings.

The child nutrition hearings were held in eight major cities between October 25 and November 4. The hearings focused on the adequacy of the new meal patterns and on the issues in Public Law 95-166, enacted November 10. Each hearing lasted two days.

Those testifying at the hearings included students, parents, State administrators, program advocates, educators, city officials, food service workers, food processors, day care providers, summer food service sponsors, and representatives of migrant organizations. A member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a State legislator, and a member of the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition were among the 571 people who testified during the hearings.

The testimony will become a permanent part of the operating record of the child nutrition programs, and FNS will use the suggestions and ideas in writing regulations and guidance materials.

Each FNS regional office has a transcript of the food stamp and child nutrition hearings. They are available for public review.

## Implementing P.L.95-166

(continued from page 1)

semi-annually based on changes in the food-away-from-home series of the Consumer Price Index.

On December 22, USDA issued an initial increase, effective retroactively, for breakfast served between November 10 and December 31, 1977. Schools and institutions will receive a maximum of 49.25 cents for each free breakfast and 44.25 cents for each reduced-price breakfast served during this period.

On January 1, USDA made the semi-annual adjustment, increasing the maximum reimbursement rates to 50.25 cents for each free breakfast and 45.25 cents for each reduced-price breakfast served in especially needy schools.

A State can determine a school to be "especially needy" if the school serves a high percentage of free and reduced-price meals, if food service costs are unusually high, or if the school meets other economic criteria.

● As the new law mandates, USDA issued new regulations for the Special Milk Program. The regulations discontinue the practice of providing a second serving of free milk to needy children during mealtime. Each needy child who receives a free meal will continue to receive one free half-pint of milk as a component of the meal. If a needy child wants an extra serving, he or she can purchase it at the low prices made possible by the Special Milk Program.

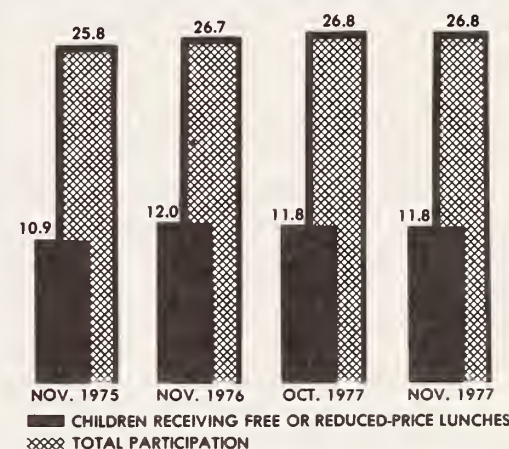
Schools and institutions will continue to provide a half-pint of free milk at mealtime to children who qualify for free meals but who choose not to take them. Schools and institutions will also continue to make free milk available to needy children when the Special Milk Program is operated at times other than during meals.

The Special Milk Program regulations change applies to meals served through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Child Care Food Programs. Effective February 1, the change was published in the January 6 Federal Register.

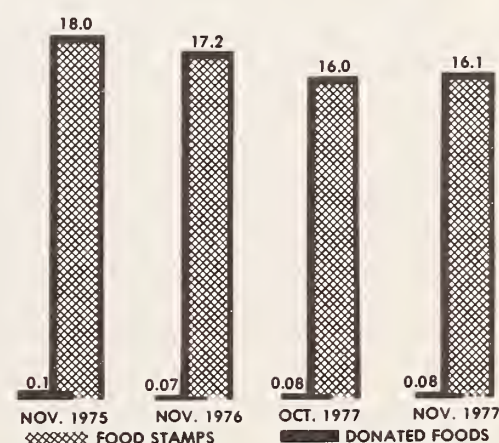
Also published in the January 6 Federal Register were new rates of reimbursement for the Special Milk Program. In accordance with P.L. 95-166, USDA adjusted the rates retroactively based on changes in the Consumer Price Index. For the period July 1, 1977 through June 30, 1978, the rate is 6.25 cents per half pint of milk served to paying children. The rate had been 6 cents. Schools and institutions will continue to be reimbursed the purchase price of milk served free to needy children.

● In the National School Lunch and Child Care Food Programs, USDA increased the level of commodity assistance provided to schools and nonresidential child care institutions. Schools and institutions will now receive commodities, or cash payments instead of commodities, at the rate of 12.75 cents for each lunch served. The rate is the same for suppers served under the Child Care Food Program. Previously, the rate had been 11.75 cents.

**NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM**  
(Millions of Participants)



**FAMILY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**  
(Millions of Participants)





The new rate is effective retroactively to July 1, 1977, and it will remain in effect until June 30, 1978. The rate change appeared in the Federal Register January 6.

USDA is now in the process of drafting regulations to implement other provisions of Public Law 95-166. Early in February, the Department invited public comment on regulations for the Summer Food Program. For details, see the following item. USDA has also invited comments on a proposal to allow junior high and middle school students to accept as few as three of the five items offered with the Type A school lunch.

## USDA works on summer food regs

On January 31, USDA issued interim regulations for the Summer Food Program to enable sponsors to get started on plans for this year's program. The Department published additional regulations in proposed form on February 3. USDA reviewed the 82 public comments received in February, and is now finalizing the regulations. Final regulations should be issued before the end of March.

Under the interim regulations:

- Food service management companies interested in participating in the program will have to register with the State in which they intend to operate.

- States will have to make statewide announcements of the program's availability, and they must solicit and assist potential sponsors in rural areas.

- Residential summer camps which participate in the program will have to document each needy child's eligibility, based on family size and income, to receive reimbursement for meals served. Nonresidential sponsors will have the option of documenting each child individually or documenting one-third of enrolled children as living in areas of economic need.

- Residential summer camps will be able to serve up to four meals a day, including a nutritious snack as one meal. If non-residential local sponsors wish to serve as many as four meals, they will have to participate under the same conditions as residential summer camps. Other sponsors will be able to serve up to three meals a day, including a nutritious snack as one meal.

- States will have to approve sponsor's budgets, and set limits on spending levels as part of the application approval.

"Eligible children" are defined for the first time in the interim regulations. "Eligible children" are persons 18 years of age and younger, or individuals older than 18 who are mentally or physically handicapped and who participate in a public school program established for the mentally or physically handicapped.

The interim regulations stipulate that States may provide sponsors with "start up" payments before the program begins to cover administrative costs. "Start up" funds cannot total more than 20 percent of a sponsor's administrative budget.

Also, States may make "advance payments" to sponsors for administrative and operating costs. Sponsors preparing their own meals may be advanced up to 65 percent of costs in "advance" funds; sponsors using a food service management company may be advanced up to 50 percent in "advance" funds.

Proposed regulations provide that:

- To be eligible to operate the program, sponsors would have to demonstrate proficiency in operating the program in prior years. They would have to operate a regularly scheduled food service for children and provide a year-round service to the community.

- Food service management companies would not be allowed to subcontract for the total meal or for the assembly of the meal.

- Each sponsor earning more than \$50,000 in program payments would be required to provide States with a management letter from an auditor or an accountant who has reviewed the sponsor's financial and recordkeeping systems. Previously, sponsors submitted letters of engagement.

- Audits of sponsors earning more than \$50,000 could be conducted by State and local government accountants, as well as by certified public accountants.

- Bids for food service for less than \$75,000 would not have to be accompanied by a bid bond. Successful bidders whose bids do not exceed \$75,000 would not have to obtain a performance bond. These provisions would assist small businesses, which have been adversely affected by previous bonding requirements.

## New controls for school lunch contracts

USDA is now reviewing public comments received on proposed regulations to clarify and tighten food service contracting controls for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. The proposed regulations would:

- Require State agencies to develop and issue standard contracts for schools to use when contracting for food service.

- Require competitive bids for any contract for food service in excess of \$10,000.

- Require all contracts to be established on a fixed fee basis

- Extend Federal procurement standards to schools, as well as State agencies.

The proposals were published in the Federal Register January 13. Comments were accepted through February 25.



## New regs encourage breakfast expansion

USDA is also considering comments on school breakfast regulations proposed in November. The proposals would require States to make greater efforts to expand the breakfast program to needy schools.

Under the proposed regulations, States would have to identify and target schools in need of the program. They would also have to outline their plans to encourage and facilitate program expansion. States would provide USDA with the following information:

- The number of nonparticipating schools in which needy children make up 25 percent or more of the total enrollment.

- The number of "Title I schools" not participating in the school breakfast program. These schools receive funds under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

- The number of schools without any type of food service, and the States' plans for initiating breakfast programs in these schools.

- The States' criteria for determining "especially needy" schools for the School Breakfast Program, and how schools will be informed of these criteria.

The School Breakfast Program began as a pilot program in 1966, serving breakfast to 80,000 children each day. In 1975, Public Law 95-105 authorized the program on a permanent basis. Currently, the program serves 2.7 million children in 23,002 schools.

## USDA revises proposed lunch patterns

USDA is revising the proposed lunch patterns for the National School Lunch Program to reflect concerns expressed by the public. The Department received over 1,400 comments on the proposals. Most of the comments were favorable.

Announced in September, the proposed regulations would make several changes in the longstanding Type A meal pattern. The proposals define minimum food portions for children of five groups.

USDA expects to issue interim regulations this month, and schools can test the interim patterns over the spring semester. FNS Regional Offices have guidelines States can distribute to schools taking part in the field test.

## New York City schools work on lunch problems

Two pilot projects are now underway in New York schools as a result of recommendations of a school lunch task force organized last year. The task force consists of Federal, State, and local representatives, who are working together to identify problem areas and develop solutions for them.

During the spring, the group reviewed five areas of concern: supervision and administration: con-

## Federal payments increase 3.1 percent

Federal payments for meals served in National School Lunch, School Breakfast, and Child Care Food Programs increased January 1. Provided to schools and institutions through State agencies, the payments help defray meal preparation costs.

The new rates reflect the 3.1 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index series for food away from home for the 6-month period, May to November, 1977.

In the National School Lunch Program, the average payment to States for each lunch served increased from 14 cents to 14.50 cents. States may now vary a school's reimbursement up to 20.50 cents a lunch. Previously, the ceiling was 20 cents.

The additional average payment to States for lunches served to needy children went up 2 cents--to 55 cents for reduced-price lunch and

65 cents for a free lunch. The maximum reimbursement States may pay schools and institutions is now 84.50 cents for a reduced-price lunch and 94.50 cents for each free lunch.

In the School Breakfast Program, the national average payment increased from 11.25 cents to 11.50 cents. The additional average payment for each reduced-price breakfast, which had been 21 cents, increased to 21.75 cents. The additional average payment for a free breakfast increased from 28 cents to 28.75 cents. Maximum rates of reimbursement States may pay schools and institutions are 33.25 cents for each reduced-price breakfast, and 40.25 cents for each free breakfast. Maximum rates of reimbursement States may pay "especially needy" schools and institutions are 45.25 cents for each reduced-price breakfast and 50.25 cents for each free breakfast served.

In the Child Care Food Program, States earn payments at the same levels as they do in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. Payments for each mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack allowed under the Child Care Food Program increased from 5.75 cents to 6 cents. The additional average payments for reduced-price snacks increased from 11.50 cents to 12 cents, and for free snacks, from 17.25 cents to 17.75 cents.

In lieu of maintaining records on the actual cost of food used, sponsors of family and group day care homes in the Child Care Food Program may use a cost factor of 45.50 cents for each lunch or supper, 25.50 cents for each breakfast, and 15.50 cents for each snack served.

These factors are also adjusted semi-annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index.



tract specifications and purchasing procedures; financial management; and food service systems and menu planning controls. The pilot projects now underway grew out of task force recommendations in two of the areas. One is a financial management project, which is currently being tested in New York City's District 25. The purpose of the project is to implement, test and refine a financial management and recordkeeping system.

The other project focuses on menu planning, with testing in three schools: a high school with a conventional kitchen, a school with a soup-and sandwich kitchen, and a school serving pre-packed meals. The project includes student and community recommendations for selecting food, the general upgrading of the school food service, and comprehensive planning. The

project also includes training for school food service personnel, and nutrition education for students.

The pilot projects will extend to the end of the school year, when they will be reviewed and revised before being extended to other New York City schools.

The task force is currently working on recommendations for improving program administration, warehousing operations, distribution systems, and procurement systems.

## HEW survey to include Child Care Food Program

An HEW study of family day care homes will provide USDA with information useful in administering the Child Care Food Program. The study will include a section on food service. USDA is developing

questions for HEW to use in gathering information for that section. To be conducted in five major cities, the study will develop an extensive description of various kinds of family day care homes. It will include information on the management and administration of family day care homes and sponsoring organizations. It will also include information on food services provided in homes participating in the Child Care Food Program as well as in homes not participating in the program. One of the objectives of the study is to assess incentives for joining the program and obstacles which block participation.

The survey, in both Spanish and English, was initiated last September with a pilot test in Los Angeles. The completed study is due in June, 1979.

## New releases

- "Food for Kids" (FNS-163) explains how child care center and family and group day care homes can participate in the Child Care Food Program. Designed for distribution to potential participants, the lively, 4-page brochure explains eligibility requirements and the kinds of Federal assistance available through the Child Care Food Program.

- The "Senior High School Lunch Poster" (PA-1194) uses bold graphic design to explain the three-out-of-five choice system introduced last year. The 24- by 37-inch poster has a brightly colored shooting star superimposed on a black background with white lettering. Each of the five colors in the star represents one of the five items in the school lunch. Lunch managers can coordinate the colors with designated school lunch items on their serving lines.

For copies write: Child Nutrition Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "Food Purchasing Pointers for School Food Service," (PA-1160) is a publication designed to help schools and school districts buy food in quantity. It includes guidelines for procedures and specifications which buyers can adapt to fit the purchasing needs of individual schools. The two-part publication is in looseleaf form, so that users insert new sheets as specifications change. Copies are \$3.00 each, and are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

- "How WIC Helps--Eating for You and Your Baby" (PA-1198) is a new publication for pregnant or nursing women taking part in the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The WIC program provides these women with milk, cheese, eggs, vegetable or fruit juice, and iron-fortified cereal. "How WIC Helps" explains what these foods do for the body and how to use them. For use as a teaching tool, "How WIC Helps" is the first in a series of three publications which will explain the supplemental foods available to participants at local WIC offices. Copies are available from the Special Supplemental Food Program, Food

and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

- "Gardening for Food and Fun" is the Department of Agriculture's 1977 yearbook. The yearbook includes an introduction to gardening, instructions on how to grow vegetables, fruits and nuts, and a section on home food preservation. The hard-cover yearbook has 400 pages of text, with 32 color photos. Copies may be purchased for \$6.50 at government bookstores or ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Members of Congress also have limited numbers of copies for free distribution.

- "Characteristics of Food Stamp Households, September 1976" is USDA's second comprehensive survey of food stamp participants. The survey includes information on the age, sex, employment status, and income of participants. It also includes information on household sizes, allotments, and purchase requirements. Copies are available from the Food Stamp Division, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.